

New Guidelines for St Bernadette January 2022

Alongside the positive effects of covid vaccination, it should be stressed that any people displaying symptoms of Covid-19 should stay at home and not participate in acts of worship in church. For example, cough, sore throat, sneezing, high temperature etc. This is good practice for any transmissible illness.

The stewards will still operate in each church as they have become an invaluable ministry of welcome at Mass. They will now be known as the Ministers of Welcome.

You will be required to sanitise your hands as usual before entering the church and you are encouraged to wear a face mask.

Holy Water is now available again in church, please sanitise your hands *before* dipping your hand into the Holy Water stoops.

There is no longer a need for social distancing but, for the moment, the right side of St Bernadette's will still be available for those who wish to have more distance.

The Sign of Peace is restored, but we will resume the practice in the parish that we had immediately before Lock-down, that is, bowing to each other, rather than shaking hands.

You will no longer be offered hand sanitiser before receiving Holy Communion. (You may bring your own, of course.) Please wait for your row to be called out to Holy Communion by the steward.

Those who wish to receive Holy Communion on the tongue may do so but, if possible, please wait till the end of the communion procession.

If, you receive Holy Communion on the hand, please remember to hold your hand flat, so that you avoid touching the priest or minister's hand. Also please receive Holy Communion immediately and before you move away from the priest or minister.

If the priest or minister notices their hand has touched someone's mouth or hand when they receive Holy Communion, they will sanitise their hands before continuing to administer Holy Communion.